

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A packaging device for packaging a stack of sheet objects that have an attributable monetary value in a container, comprising:

an input path for the sheet objects,

an output port for supplying sheet objects to be stacked in the container,

a docking mechanism to receive the container, so that an opening in the container can receive the sheet objects from the output port,

a drive mechanism for driving the sheet objects to the output port, and for supplying the sheet objects through the opening into the container to be stacked therein, the drive mechanism being configured to drive the sheet objects in a direction transverse to their major faces through the output port into the container so as to create a stack of the sheet objects in the container, and

a sealing device to seal a closure member onto the container opening whilst held by the docking mechanism so as to seal the stacked sheet objects within the container such that the sealed container cannot be opened without rendering it subsequently unusable for packaging sheet objects in the packaging device.

2. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 including a printer to print data relating to the sheet objects supplied into the container.

3. (previously presented) A device according to claim 2 wherein the printer is operable to print the data onto the closure member.

4. (previously presented) A device according to claim 3 wherein the printer is operable to print the data onto a side of the closure member that after sealing is on the inside of the container.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 including first input port to receive the sheet objects, and a second input port to receive the closure member, the drive mechanism being operable to drive the objects and the closure member to the output port.

7. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 including a main body and an openable frame mounted on the main body, the frame including said output port and being configured so that when opened the container can be fitted in the output port on the frame and then when mounted to the main body the container is retained between the frame and the main body.

8. (previously presented) A device according to claim 7 wherein the input path extends between the frame and the main body.

9. (previously presented) A device according to claim 7 wherein the sealing means comprises an electric heater on the main body or the frame.

10. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 including a sensor to sense sheet objects and counting circuitry to count them.

11. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 including discrimination circuitry to discriminate between true and false sheet objects.

12. (previously presented) A device according to claim 11 wherein the discrimination circuitry is operable to determine the monetary value attributable to true sheet objects.

13. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 including a spring loaded platen to compress stacked sheet objects in the container.

14. (previously presented) A device according to claim 13 wherein the spring loaded platen is within a loading box attached to the docking mechanism.

15. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 and including the container.

16. (previously presented) A device according to claim 15 wherein the container comprises an opening to receive the sheet objects, a base, sidewalls extending towards the opening from the base, support rails coupled to the side walls on opposite sides of the opening, past which in use the sheet objects resiliently deform when placed in the container in a stacked configuration through the output port.

17. (previously presented) A device according to claim 16 wherein the support rails each include a main guide surface to guide a side edge region the sheet members along the input path, and stop regions for providing a stop against which the stack of sheet objects abuts when in the container.

18. (previously presented) A device according to claim 16 including a spring in the base operable to urge stacked sheet objects in the container against the support rails, the container being configured to receive the closure member sealed thereto over the opening.

19. (previously presented) A device according to claim 18 wherein the base is integral with the sidewalls and resiliently coupled thereto to provide the spring.

20. (previously presented) A device according to claim 16 wherein the sidewalls have a concertina configuration.

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A container for packaging sheet objects with an attributable monetary value, comprising an opening to receive the sheet objects, a base, sidewalls extending towards the opening from the base, support rails coupled to the side walls on opposite sides of the opening, ~~past which in use the sheet objects resiliently deform when placed in the container in a stacked configuration,~~ the container being configured to receive a closure member sealed thereto over the opening so that the container cannot be reused for stacking sheet objects once opened, wherein the support rails are hinged for movement from a storage position exteriorly of the opening, to an operative position within the opening for guiding the sheet objects to overlie the opening and past which the sheet objects resiliently deform when placed in the container in a stacked configuration, the support rails each including a main guide surface to guide a side edge region of the sheet members to be stacked within the container, stop regions for providing a stop against which a stack of sheet objects abuts when in the container, and a coupling portion coupling said main guide surface hingedly to the said side wall.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) A container according to claim 24 23 wherein the support rails comprise wings coupled by integral hinges to a lip around the opening.

26. (previously amended) A container according to claim 25 wherein the hinges comprise spaced hinge regions that hold the wings spaced from the lip.

27. (previously amended) A container according to claim 26 wherein the lip includes raised portions between the hinge regions that are coplanar with the upper side of the wings when in said operative position.

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A container according to claim ~~28~~ 23 wherein the stop regions comprise castellations.

30. (currently amended) A container according to claim ~~28~~ 23 wherein the stop regions comprise channels in the support rails.

31. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23 wherein the base is integral with the sidewalls and resiliently coupled thereto to provide a spring operable to urge stacked sheet objects in the container against the support rails.

32. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23 wherein the sidewalls are arranged in a concertina configuration.

33. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23 including a platen on the base, the platen being configured to receive the stack of sheet members.

34. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23, integrally moulded.

35. (original) A container according to claim 34, integrally moulded in a plastics material.

36. (previously presented) A container according to claim 33 wherein the platen comprises a discrete element on the base.

37. (previously presented) A container according to claim 33 wherein the platen is integral with the base.

38. (previously presented) A container according to claim 33 wherein the base includes a plurality of platen portions each resiliently biased towards the support rails.

39. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23 wherein a plurality thereof can stack one within the other.

40. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23 and including the closure member.

41. (original) A container according to claim 40 and including the closure member sealed to the opening.

42. (original) A container according to claim 41 wherein the closure member has been heat-sealed thereon.

43. (previously presented) A container according to claim 40 wherein the closure member includes a line of weakness along which it can subsequently tear to facilitate removal of the sheet objects.

44. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23 containing a stack of said sheet objects.

45. (original) A container according to claim 44 wherein the sheet objects comprise banknotes or like promissory notes of attributable monetary value.

46. (previously presented) A container according to claim 44 wherein data relating to said stack of sheet members is printed on the closure member.

47. (original) A container according to claim 46 wherein the data is printed on the inside of the closure member.

48. (previously presented) A container according to claim 23 with a RFID device.

49. (currently amended) A container according to claim 23 further comprising device ~~for removing sheet objects from a container according to claim 48 including~~ a support for the container around the periphery of its opening, ram to apply a force to the base to drive it towards the opening and to collapse the side walls and cause the sheet objects to burst open the closure member so that the sheet objects move out of the container through the opening.

50. (currently amended) A container according to claim 23 further comprising means for ~~method of removing sheet objects from a container according to claim 48~~ including applying a force to the base of the container to drive it towards the opening and cause the sheet objects to burst open the closure member so that they move out of the container through the opening.

51. (cancelled)

52. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the sealing device includes a printed circuit heater element to be energised by a d.c. heating current.

53. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the docking mechanism includes a hinged frame.

54. (previously presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the docking mechanism includes a slidable frame.

55. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~54~~ 1 further comprising a low voltage heater element comprising a printed circuit board on which is formed a heater element as a printed circuit conductive track.

56. (new) A container according to claim 23, wherein the base includes a spring to urge the stacked configuration of sheet objects against the support rails.

57. (new) a container according to claim 23, wherein the spring comprises corrugations in the base.